

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01

SAJ-01 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /160 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3162

INFO USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12972

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, UR, XF

SUBJ: BOUMEDIENE VISIT TO MOSCOW, OCTOBER 14-15

REF: MOSCOW 12804

1. SUMMARY: BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR HERE, FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT REPORTS THAT ALGERIANS WERE SATISFIED WITH BOUMEDIENCE VISIT. THEY RECEIVED COMPLETE ASSURANCE THAT THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD SEND ALL NECESSARY MATERIEL TO THE ARAB STATES DURING THE PRESENT CONFLICT. NO REQUEST WAS MADE FOR SOVIET PARTICIPATION FROM THE ALGERIAN SIDE, KNOWING THAT THIS WOULD BE REFUSED. THE IMPRESSION OF THE ALGERIANS, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE SOVIET COMMITMENT TO THE ARAB STATES FALLS SHORT OF THE US COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL. END SUMMARY

2. AT THE WEEKLY QUADRIpartite MEETING OCTOBER 18, FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE BOUMEDIENE
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VISIT WITH ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR REDHA MALEK.

A. THE VISIT OF BOUMEDIENNE WAS SPONTANEOUS; NO INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED FROM THE SOVIET SIDE.

B. DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL (REFTEL) AND LASTED FROM 6:30 P.M., OCTOBER 14 TO 6 A.M. OCTOBER 15. THE SOVIET SIDE THEN REMAINED TOGETHER FOR ANOTHER TWO HOURS FOR INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS.

C. THE ALGERIAN SIDE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE VISIT SINCE THE SOVIETS HAD CONVEYED COMPLETE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD SEND ALL NECESSARY MATERIEL TO THE ARAB STATES.

D. THE ALGERIANS DID NOT ASK THE SOVIET SIDE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFLICT BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT THIS IDEA WOULD NEVER BE ACCEPTED BY THE SOVIETS.

4. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, MALEK REFERRED TO THE SADAT SPEECH SAYING HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE CONCESSIONS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE, I.E., AGREEMENT TO SIT DOWN AT A CONFERENCE TABLE WITH THE ISRAELIS AND SECONDLY TO AGREE TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN THE CONFERENCE.

5. VIMONT SAID HE HAD TWO IMPRESSIONS FROM HIS CONVERSATION WITH MALEK. FIRST, THE ALGERIANS REALIZE WITH GREAT PRECISION THAT THE SOVIET COMMITMENT TO THE ARAB STATES IS NOT OF THE SAME MAGNITUDE OR QUALITY AS THE US COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL. IF THE SITUATION SHOULD DETERIORATE WITH A CONFRONTATION DEVELOPING BETWEEN THE US AND USSR, THE ARABS SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD DISENGAGE FROM ALL-OUT SUPPORT FOR THE ARABS WHILE THE US WOULD CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL. THE EQUILIBRIUM WHICH EXISTS IN THE CURRENT SITUATION WOULD THUS BE DESTROYED TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE ARAB SIDE. SECONDLY, MALEK, BY IMPLICATION, DID NOT APPEAR TO BE OPTIMISTIC REGARDING THE IMMEDIATE INTEREST OF THE ARAB STATES IN THE PRESENT MILITARY CONFLICT. WHILE THE SITUATION MAY BE ACCEPTABLE TODAY, THE ARABS RECOGNIZE THAT IT COULD DETERIORATE RAPIDLY TOMORROW.
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6. COMMENT: I WOULD GUESS THAT AMBASSADOR VIMONT'S IMPRESSIONS REFLECT HIS EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS OF THE EXTENT OF THE SOVIET COMMITMENT TO THE ARABS RATHER THAN CONCLUSIONS FLOWING FROM A SINGLE CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR MALEK.
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